

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please delete the paragraph on page 6, lines 12-13 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIG. 4 shows the result of comparing the sequence of amino acids from TLR9 knockout mice in the present invention and the sequence of amino acids from wild-type mice **(SEQ ID NOS 6-9 disclosed respectively in order of appearance)**.

Please delete the paragraph on page 22, lines 5-19 and replace it with the following paragraph:

The macrophages prepared in Example 3 are co-cultured with various concentrations of CpG ODN shown in Fig. 5 (0.1 or 1.0 μ M; TIB MOLBIOL; TCC-ATG-ACG-TTC-CTG-ATG-CT) **(SEQ ID NO: 5)**, PGN (10 μ g/ml; Sigma and Fluka; derived from Staphylococcus aureus), LPS (1.0 μ g/ml; Sigma; derived from Salmonella minnesota Re-595) in the presence or absence of IFN γ (30 unit/ml). The concentrations of TNF α , IL-6 and IL-12 p40 in the supernatants after culturing were measured by ELISA, and the results are shown in Fig. 5. The results show that the macrophages from wild-type mice (Wild-type) produce TNF α , IL-6 and IL-12 in response to CpG ODN, and further stimulation by IFN γ and CpG ODN increases the amount of producing TNF α , IL-6 and IL-12. However, the macrophages derived from TLR9 knockout mice (TLR9^{-/-}) did not produce a detectable level of inflammatory cytokines in response to CpG ODN even in the presence of IFN γ . Further, it was found that the macrophages derived from wild-type mice and TLR9 knockout mice produce almost the same level of TNF α , IL-6 and IL-12 in response to LPS or PGN (Fig. 5). Each experimental result shows the average level of n=3. N.D. in the figures means not detected.

Please replace the originally filed Sequence Listing with the attached Sequence Listing